

MAR 2 2006
Place On Calendar

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2005
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HJR 2)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa to change the length of term of office for
3 members of the Iowa House of Representatives from two years to
4 four years.

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
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HJR 2005

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 1. Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the
4 State of Iowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu
5 thereof:

6 REPRESENTATIVES. SEC. 3. The members of the House of
7 Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified electors of
8 their respective districts, and their term of office shall
9 commence on the first day of January following their election
10 which is not a Sunday or legal holiday, and continue four
11 years, and until their successors are elected and qualified.
12 Representatives shall be classified by statute so that as
13 nearly as possible one-half of the members of the House of
14 Representatives shall be elected every two years. The state
15 shall be divided into senatorial and representative districts
16 so that each senate district is composed of two house of
17 representatives districts. The election for a senate district
18 shall not be held in the same year as the election for the two
19 house of representatives districts composing the senate
20 district, except as otherwise required pursuant to section 35.

21 The General Assembly shall make such changes in the law
22 governing the time of election and terms of office of
23 Representatives as shall be necessary to make the time of
24 their election and terms of office conform to this section
25 effective for terms of office beginning on or after January 1,
26 2013.

27 2. Section 35 of Article III of the Constitution of the
28 State of Iowa, as amended by amendment number 4 of the
29 Amendments of 1868, amendment number 2 of the Amendments of
30 1904, and amendment number 3 of the Amendments of 1968, is
31 repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

32 SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES -- NUMBER AND DISTRICTS. SEC.
33 35. The General Assembly shall in each year immediately
34 following the United States decennial census determine the
35 number of Senators and Representatives to be elected to the

1 General Assembly and establish senatorial and representative
2 districts. The General Assembly shall complete the
3 apportionment prior to September 1 of the year so required.
4 If the apportionment fails to become law prior to September 15
5 of such year, the Supreme Court shall cause the State to be
6 apportioned into senatorial and representative districts to
7 comply with the requirements of the Constitution prior to
8 December 31 of such year. The reapportioning authority shall,
9 where necessary in establishing senatorial and representative
10 districts, shorten the term of any Senator or Representative
11 prior to completion of the term. Any Senator or
12 Representative whose term is so terminated shall not be
13 compensated for the uncompleted part of the term.

14 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed
15 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred
16 to the General Assembly to be chosen at the next general
17 election for members of the General Assembly and the Secretary
18 of State is directed to cause it to be published for three
19 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as
20 provided by law.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
23 Constitution of the State of Iowa to change the term of office
24 for members of the Iowa house of representatives from two
25 years to four years effective for terms of office beginning on
26 or after January 1, 2013. The amendment also provides that
27 each senatorial district shall be made up of two house of
28 representatives districts and the election for the two house
29 districts shall not be held in the same year as the election
30 for the senate district unless redistricting shortens the
31 terms of some members of certain senate or house districts.

32 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next
33 general assembly for adoption a second time before being
34 submitted to the electorate for ratification.

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